

# Advanced Google™ FOR Lawyers

**Weekly Workshops**

Presented by the Pappas Law Library Reference Librarians

**Topic Specific Searches:** Did you know that Google has special search engines to search certain topics? Here are a few of the most valuable for lawyers. Try out the sample searches in [ ] to see how they work.

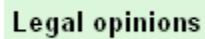


- **Google Scholar** (searches databases of scholarly articles/books):

<http://scholar.google.com/schhp?hl=en> [court interpreters]



- Under Scholar Preference, choose Boston University School of Law - Full-Text @ BU Law to link to journal at BU.



- Scholar includes case law. Use advanced search for best results.



- **Patent Search** (searches full text of available patents):

<http://www.google.com/patents> [cock fighting]



- **Google Books** (searches full text or abstracts of available books):

<http://books.google.com/books> [election of 1896]

- Can get previews of many books as well as full-text of books in public domain—which makes it a great place to find older books—like old state statutes.



- **Uncle Sam** (for U.S. Government Information):

<http://www.google.com/unclesam> [health care bill]



- **Alerts** (receive e-mail updates of every new hit on your custom search):

<http://www.google.com/alerts?hl=en> [set up one for your own name!]

**Useful Google Command Shortcuts:** Use these Google searches to perform common tasks. To see how they work, try the examples. Suggested searches appear in [ ]



- Search within a particular website or domain: *site: web address* [site: .edu]  
can limit to a domain, like educational websites or [site: bu.edu/lawlibrary]  
can limit to one website, here, BU Law Library site



- Find patents by number: *patent #* [patent 4432545]



- Calculator: *enter your calculation* [( $.34 * 851$ ) +  $8^4$ ]



- Dictionary definitions: *define word* (dictionary definitions) or *define: word* (web definitions) - See the difference for yourself with [define habeas corpus] and [define: habeas corpus]



- Current time in other cities: *time city* [time dubai]



- Unit conversion: *# of units in other units* [52 degrees Fahrenheit in Celsius]  
[56 in in cm] - spell units out or use abbreviations



- Currency converter: *# currency in other currency* [150.23 Euros in USD]



- Stock quotes; to get to Google Finance page: *stock symbol* [goog] or for common words try [nyse: car]

Even more available at <http://www.google.com/intl/en/help/features.html> or just Google [search features]


**iGoogle for Lawyers:** iGoogle is a customizable personal homepage with a Google search box that allows you to access information and perform tasks all over the web from one place. iGoogle allows users to do things such as:

- View recent emails from a Gmail account
- View recent news using RSS feeds from websites or blogs
- Add special or customized search boxes
- And much, much more

Here is what my iGoogle page looks like:

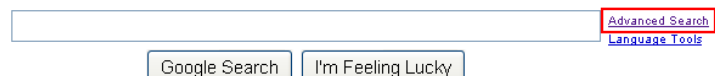
The screenshot shows a customized iGoogle homepage with the following widgets and callouts:

- Regular Google search box:** The standard Google search interface at the top.
- Special search engine from Cornell to search for legal research guides. Available [here](#).**: A custom search box for legal research.
- RSS Feed from Intellectual Property Law 360 a legal news service available through the law library website.**: A feed for legal news.
- Recent posts from Patently O – Patent Law Blog**: A widget showing recent blog posts.
- Search engine that searches only Wikipedia**: A custom search box for Wikipedia.
- Market values for major stock indices or particular stocks**: A widget displaying market data for Nasdaq and Dow Jones.
- Weather in Providence, RI, my hometown.**: A weather widget for Providence, RI.
- Recent stories from Google News.**: A widget showing recent news stories.
- Current date & time.**: A widget showing the current date and time.
- Recent articles by law librarians**: A widget showing recent articles from law librarians.
- News from CNN.com**: A widget showing news from CNN.com.
- My Google Calendar (mine is synced to my work Outlook calendar)**: A calendar widget.
- Recent emails to my Gmail account.**: A widget showing recent emails.

Consider adding RSS feeds from blogs or news sources about a legal specialty or “gadgets” that access web pages you like to visit. Hint: Anything with  symbol can be added to your page. Get started at [www.iGoogle.com](http://www.iGoogle.com)

**Advanced Google Searching:** Google has its own symbols or operators somewhat like those on LexisNexis or Westlaw. According to the folks at Google, you will only need to use them about 5% of the time. Use the commands below or just click the link for Advanced Search next to the Google search box.

- **Search within a specific website/domain:** *site: website*
  - Limit to specific country, like Iraq [*site: .iq*]
  - Limit to a specific domain like .edu, .gov, .com
  - Search within the Pappas Law Library [*site: bu.edu/lawlibrary*]
- **Limit results to specific file type like PDF, PowerPoint (ppt), or Word (doc):** *filetype: type of file* [*filetype:pdf*]
- **Fill in the blanks:** Use \* as a wildcard for an entire word. [*supreme court justice \* said \* abortion*]
- **Terms you want to exclude:** *-word* [*bass -fish*]
- **Alternative terms:** *word OR word* [*child OR minor*]
- **Search exactly as is:** Sometimes Google searches a synonym for you that you would rather have excluded. Use *+word* or "*word*" to have Google search the exact spelling of the word. [*+pa history -pennsylvania*]
- Learn more about Google search here  
<http://www.google.com/support/websearch/bin/topic.py?topic=351>
- If you forget the operators above, just access them through Advanced Search.



Questions?

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